

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch CEPOA-CO-R Post Office Box 6898 Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:

April 20, 2006

EXPIRATION DATE:

May 19, 2006

REFERENCE NUMBER:

POA-2000-307-P

WATERWAY:

Tongass Narrows

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States (U.S.) as described below and shown on the attached plan.

<u>APPLICANT</u>: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, 6860 Glacier Highway, P.O. Box 122506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506.

LOCATION: The proposed project is located within sections 15, 16, 22, 23 and 26, T. 75 S., R. 90 E., Copper River Meridian; Latitude 55.3504° N., Longitude 131.7029° W., in Ketchikan, Alaska.

 $\underline{\text{PURPOSE}}$: To improve airport safety and aircraft operations in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) acceptable standards by extending the Runway Safety Area (RSA).

WORK: The proposed project would:

- 1. Extend the RSA 50 feet west and 1,550 feet east of the existing embankment by shifting the runway 750 feet to the east to provide the full 1,000 feet of RSA beyond both runway ends.
 - 2. Extend the embankment northwest of Taxiway B into Tongass Narrows.
 - 3. Relocate the North and South Ditches, which run parallel to the RSA.
- 4. Fill the lower 1,190 feet of Government Creek beneath the RSA extension and reroute Government Creek to a new 1,750-foot long stream channel connecting to an unnamed creek (referred to in the applicant's Environmental Assessment (EA) as Boulder Cr.).
- 5. Fill a 545-foot segment of a tributary that currently flows into Government Creek and connect the tributary to Government Creek upstream of the RSA with a new 1,045-foot channel.
- 6. Use material excavated for these reroutes to construct a portion of the RSA embankment and for the remainder of the required material, excavate a material source southwest of the runway.

- 7. Relocate navigational aids, install approach lights and construct access Roads.
- 8. Relocate the runway thresholds (aircraft touch-down locations), reevaluate airport approaches, and update flight publications.
 - 9. Resurface the existing runway pavement.

Work which falls under DA jurisdiction is detailed on the attached Sheets 1-18, dated March 21, 2006. In summary, the fill/dredge quantities and acreage in Section 10 (navigable) and other waters of the U.S. are as follows:

1. Navigable Waters of the U.S.:

Total:				3.8	acres
Excavate	10,000	су	in	1.2	acres
Fill	121,000	су*	in	2.6	acres

2. Wetlands and other waters of the U.S.:

Total:					68.7	acres
Dredge		883,500	су	in	32.4	acres
Fill		903,500	су	in	29.0	acres
Temporary	fill	42,000	су	in	7.3	acres

^{*}cubic yards

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant prepared the Ketchikan Airport Master Plan in 2003 which identified airport deficiencies. This project emerged from that document. The applicant completed an EA, which FAA (the project grantor) signed a Finding of No Significant Impact January, 2006. Copies of the FAA-EA are available from the applicant at the address above.

The Ketchikan Airport Access Road intersects Gravina Access and Lewis Reef Road. Fill in wetlands and other waters of the U.S. for the Gravina Access project are being evaluated under a separate DA application, POA-2000-152, Tongass Narrows. Lewis Reef Road is permitted under DA permit POA-2000-307-N/O). Beyond its intersection with Gravina Access and Lewis Reef Road, the Ketchikan Airport Access Road would tunnel beneath the eastern RSA extension enroute to the airport terminal. (See sheets 1 & 6.)

MITIGATION: As a result of early project planning and pre-application coordination with agencies and the public during preparation of the FAA-EA, the applicant has incorporated into the proposed project the following mitigation efforts to reduce impacts upon the aquatic environment:

- 1. To avoid impacts to Airport Creek (an anadromous fish stream) considered higher value habitat, the RSA would be extended more to the east, rather than to the west.
- 2. To minimize fill in wetlands, a maintenance access road that would be extended eastward to maintain runway approach lights would be constructed in a single lane width with turnaround.
- 3. To minimize permanent impacts of materials site excavation to the southwest of the runway, overburden would be temporarily stockpiled and placed on quarry slopes. The temporary storage area, approximately 7.3 acres, would be restored to palustrine wetlands following construction. Other overburden would be used elsewhere on the project to reduce wetlands fill associated with waste disposal.
- 4. To minimize the fill footprint in wetlands from RSA embankment, finished slopes would be constructed to 2:1, rather than standard 4:1 slopes.
- 5. To replace 1,190 linear feet of stream channel of Government Creek, an anadromous fish stream, a new 1,750 linear foot channel would be constructed.

- 6. To replace 545 linear feet of Government Creek's unnamed north tributary, a resident fish stream, a new 1,045-foot channel would be created to reroute this stream to connect to Government Creek and provide resident fish habitat. The net increase in anadromous and resident fish habitat would be 4.5 acres from the actions under items #5 and #6 on the first page of this Public Notice.
- 7. To compensate for loss of estuarine wetlands associated with Government Creek the project would create a net area of 0.5 acres or estuarine wetlands, including salt marsh.
- 8. To compensate for unavoidable impacts to 68.7 acres of low value wetlands, the applicant would provide \$34,000 to the Alaska Wetlands Conservation Fund, in accordance with the 2002 Memorandum of Agreement among FAA, USACE, ADOT&PF (applicant), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- 9. To compensate for 2.6 acres of fill in unvegetated Tongass Narrows shoreline, the applicant would donate \$62,400 to the Klawock Watershed Council for culvert repair and/or replacement on the Klawock-Hollis Highway.
- 10. To prevent surface erosion into streams or other drainages, all disturbed slopes would be revegetated upon completion of construction using Alaskan grass seed mixes.
- 11. To maintain water quality in drainages during construction, the applicant would employ Best Management Practices to prevent erosion and control sediment.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone, Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to certify that the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone complies with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. A permit will not be issued until the Office of Project Management and Permitting, Department of Natural Resources has concurred with the applicant's certification.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: Historical and cultural site surveys were conducted in the project area by consultants to the applicant. The applicant applied December 1, 2005, and the project received clearance from the State Historic Preservation Officer (ADNR-SHPO) December 15, 2005, indicating there are no historical or cultural sites affected by this project. A complete report is given in Appendix C, of the FAA-EA.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: During preparation of the FAA-EA, the applicant corresponded with seven tribal organizations to obtain information regarding cultural and traditional properties that might be affected by the project. Responses received are given in Appendix C of the FAA-EA.

The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government and Federally recognized Tribes. This notice invites participation by agencies, Tribes, and members of the public in the Federal decision-making process. In addition, Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded

due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the threatened Steller sea lion (Eumetopias jubata) and the endangered Humpback Whale (Megaptera novaeangliae). During preparation of the FAA-EA, the applicant consulted with both the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) who determined this project would have no adverse effect upon Steller sea lions, humpback whales, or bald eagles.

Preliminarily, therefore, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the USFWS and the NMFS. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH): We have determined that the described activity may adversely affect EFH. The proposed work would affect approximately 2.7 acres of EFH for juvenile/adult salmon. This Public Notice initiates consultation requirements with the NMFS under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA). An EFH Assessment is included in the FAA-EA (Appendix B) pursuant to the MSFCMA, 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K.

The applicant has proposed to mitigate adverse impacts to EFH by the Proposed Conservation Measures given on Pages 2-3, MITIGATION.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(l) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable quidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are

used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an EA and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Carol Jo Sanner, ADOT&PF-Corps Liaison at (907) 753-2712; toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at carol.j.sanner@poa02.usace.army.mil, if further information is desired concerning this notice.

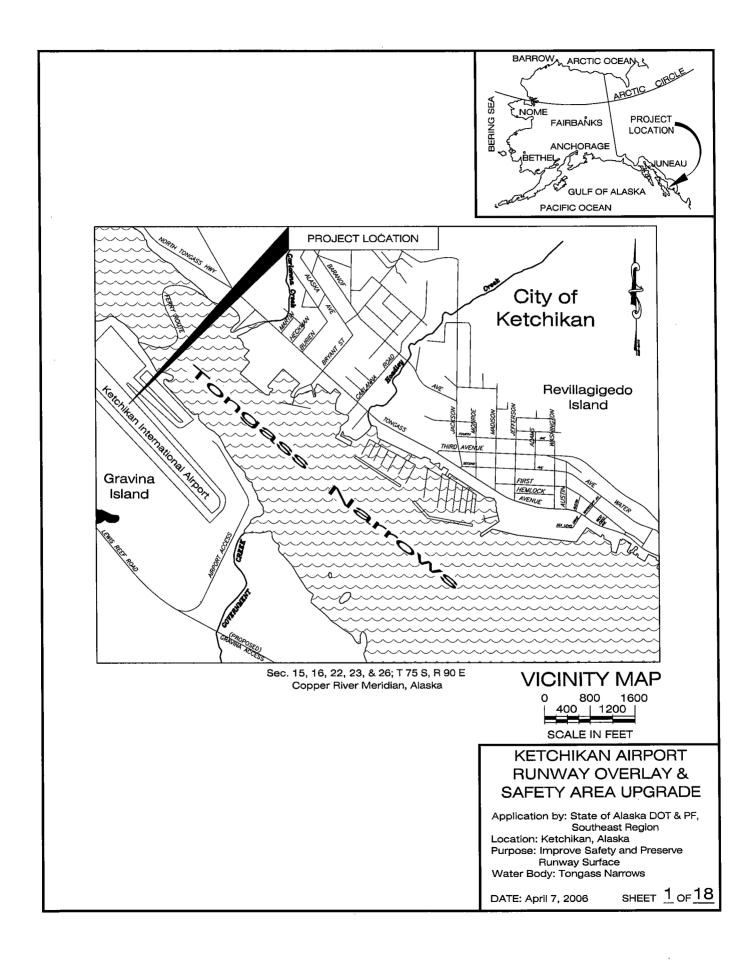
AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

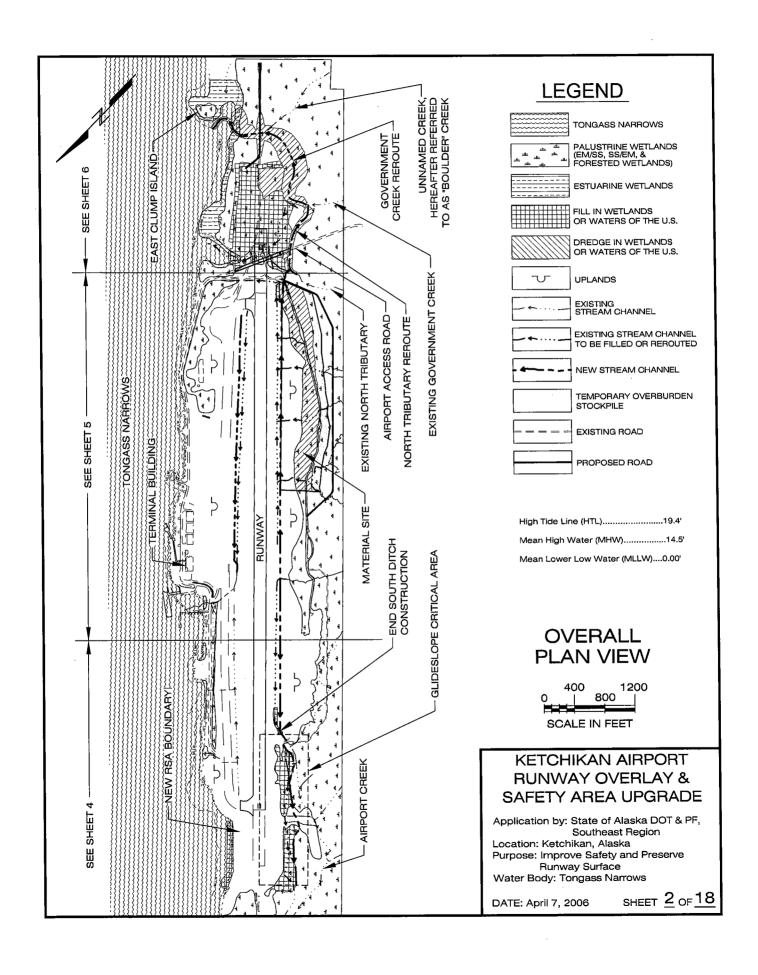
- (X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).
- (X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

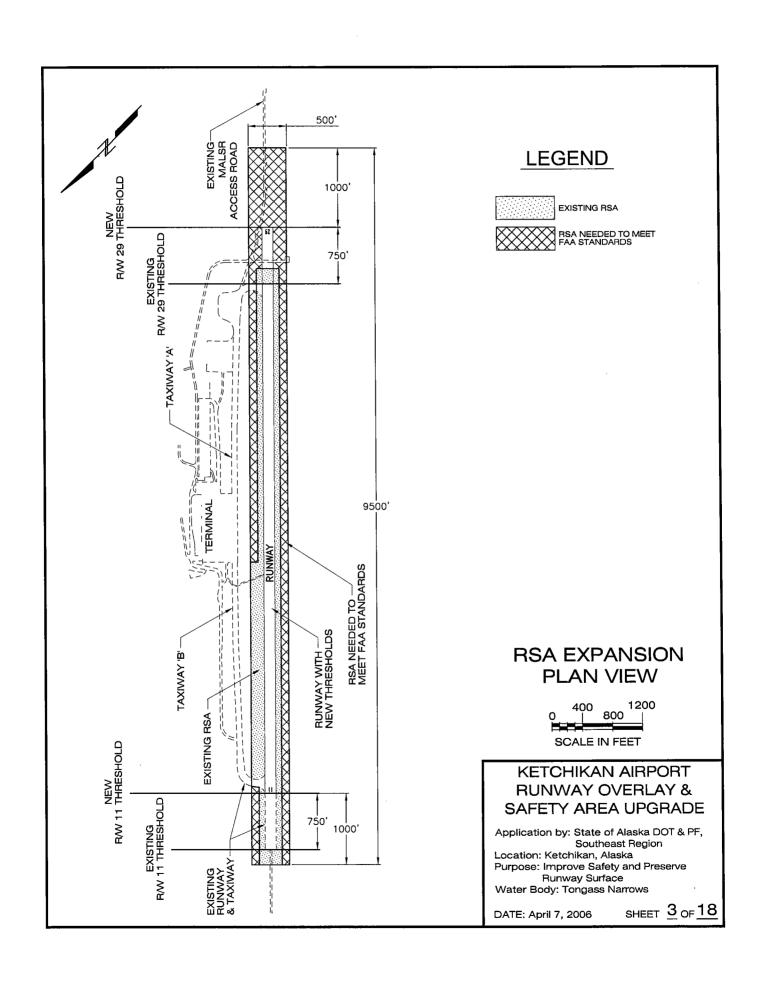
A plan, Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

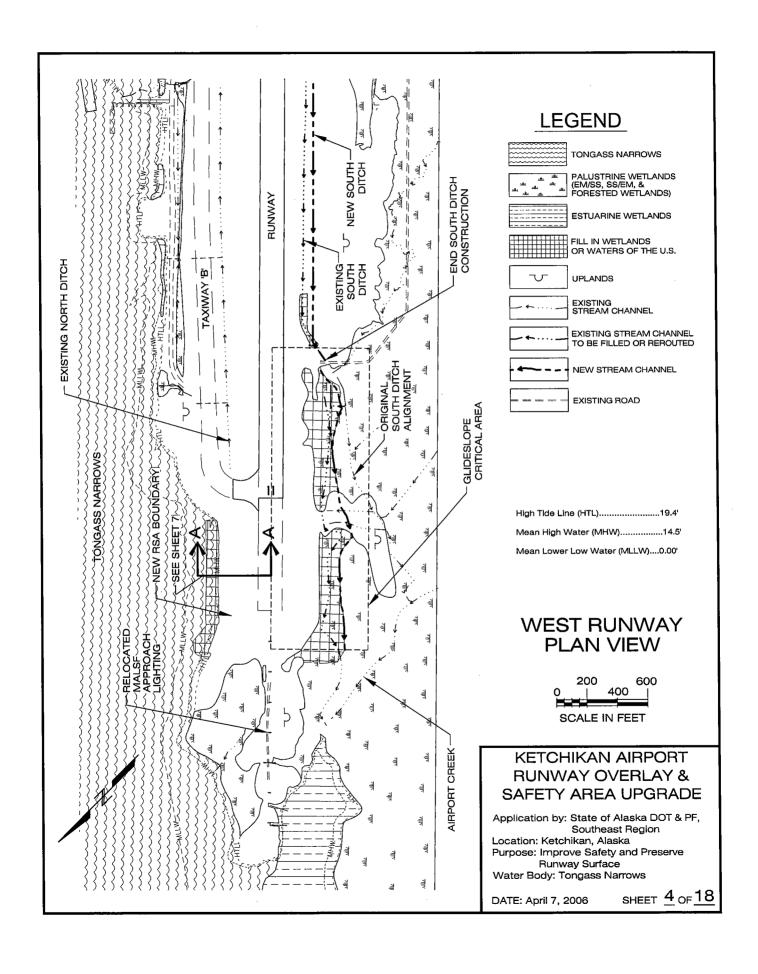
District Engineer U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

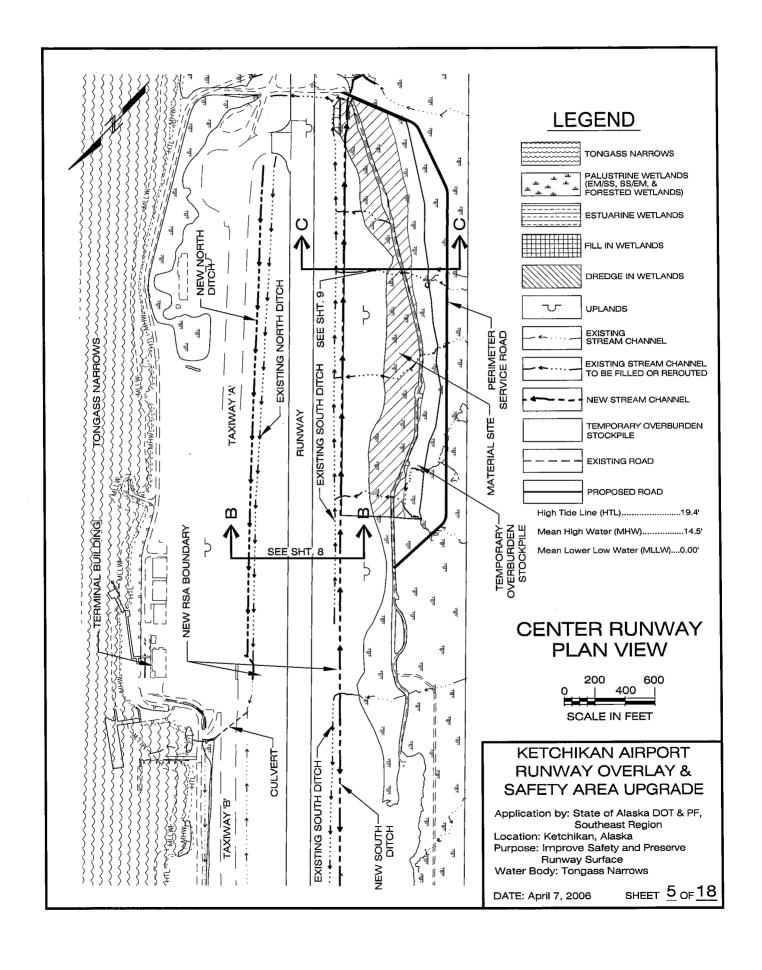
Attachments

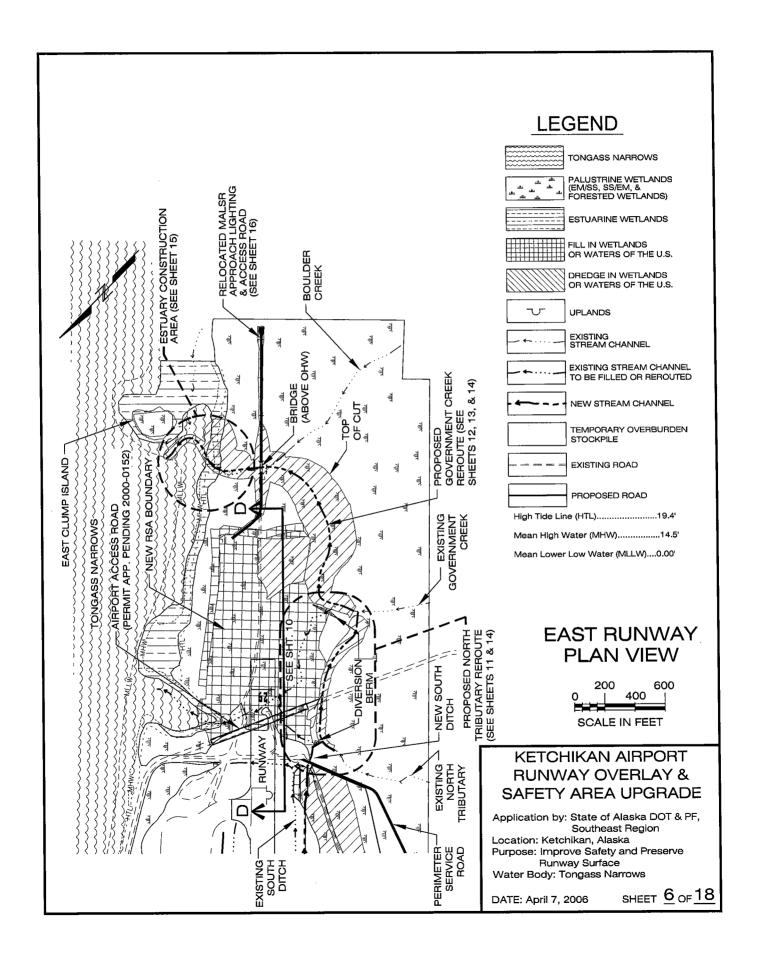


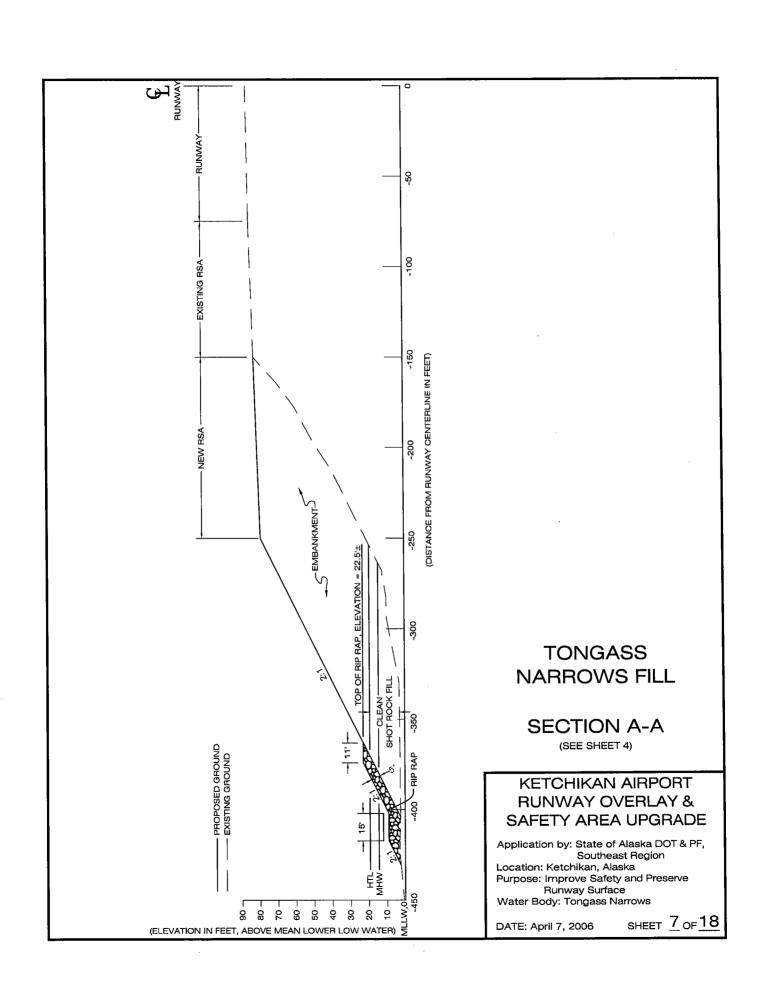


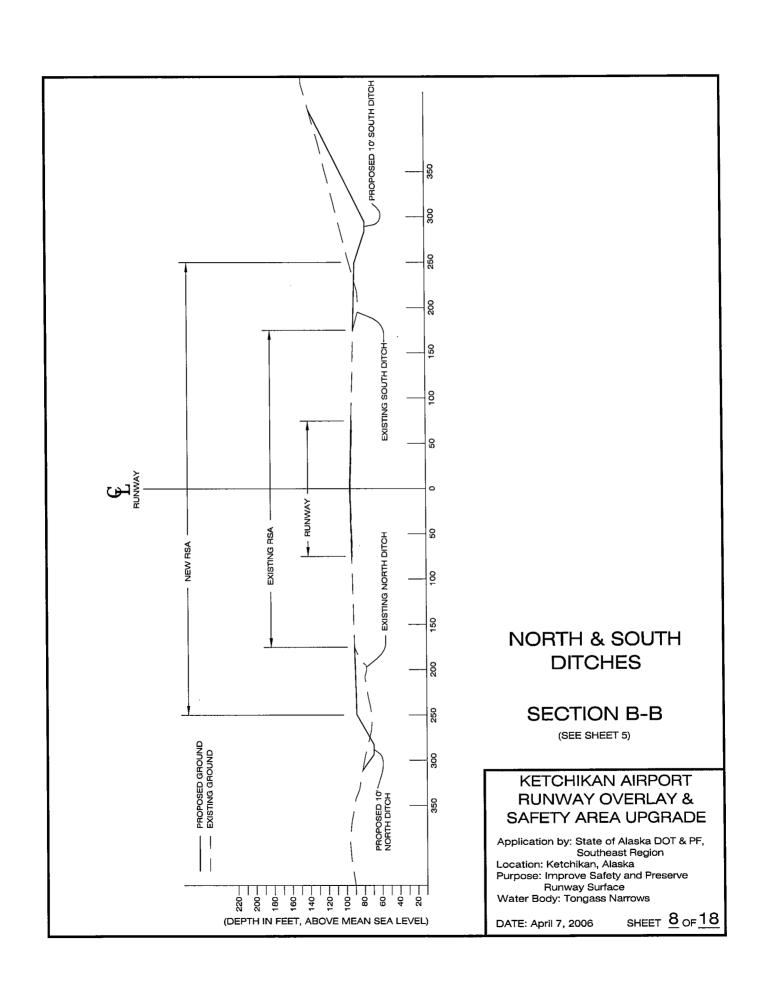


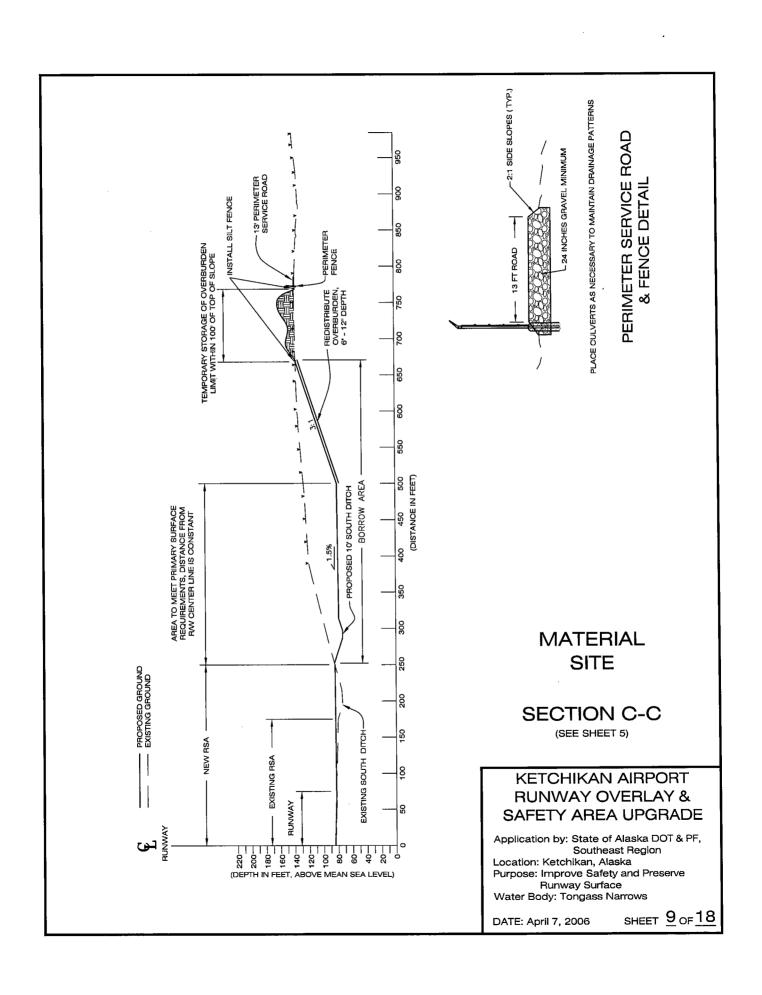


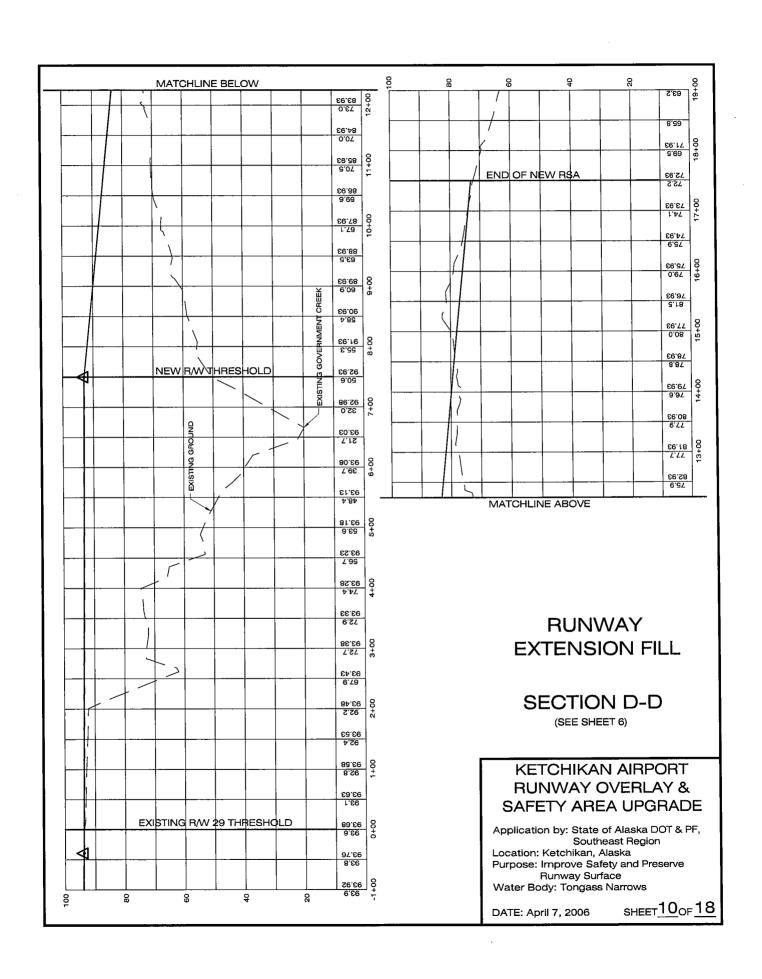


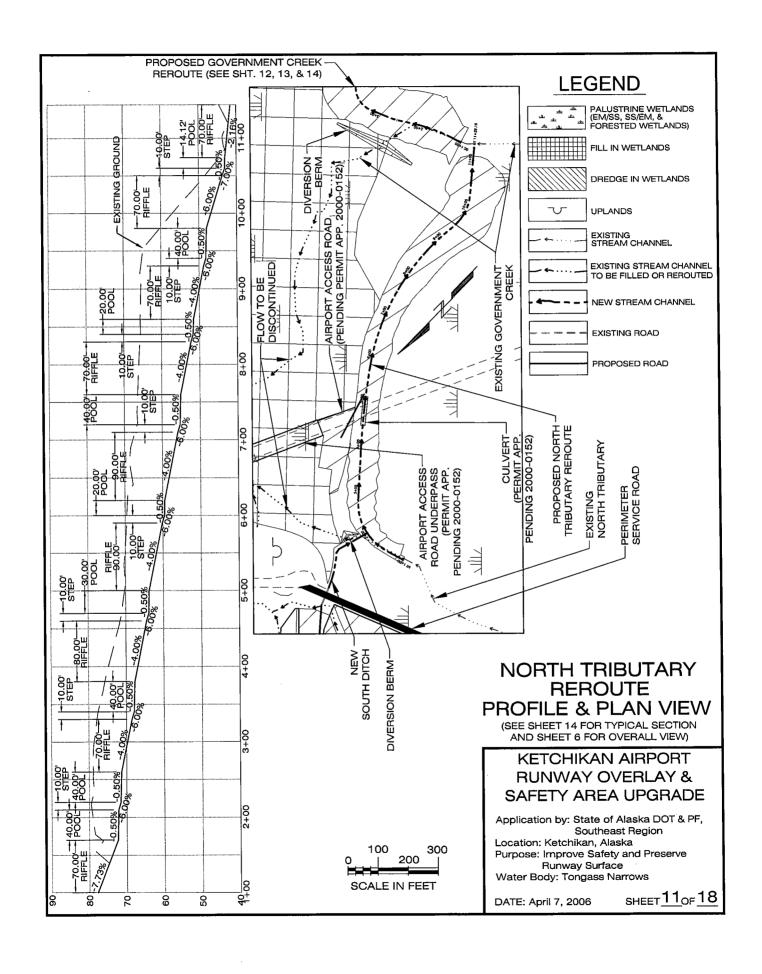


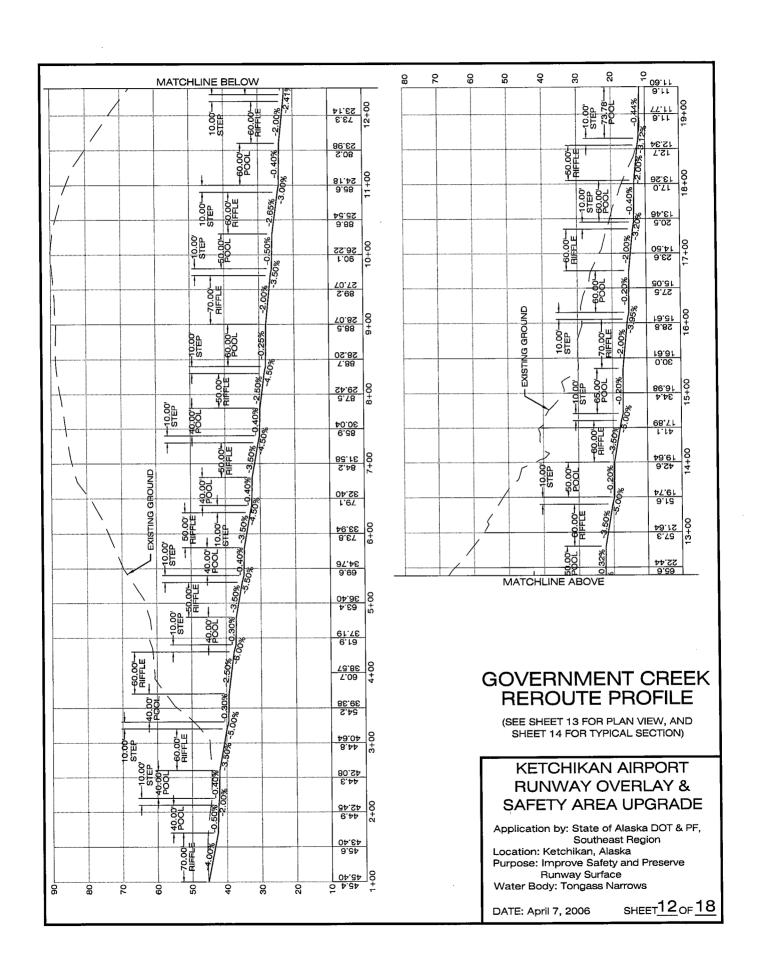


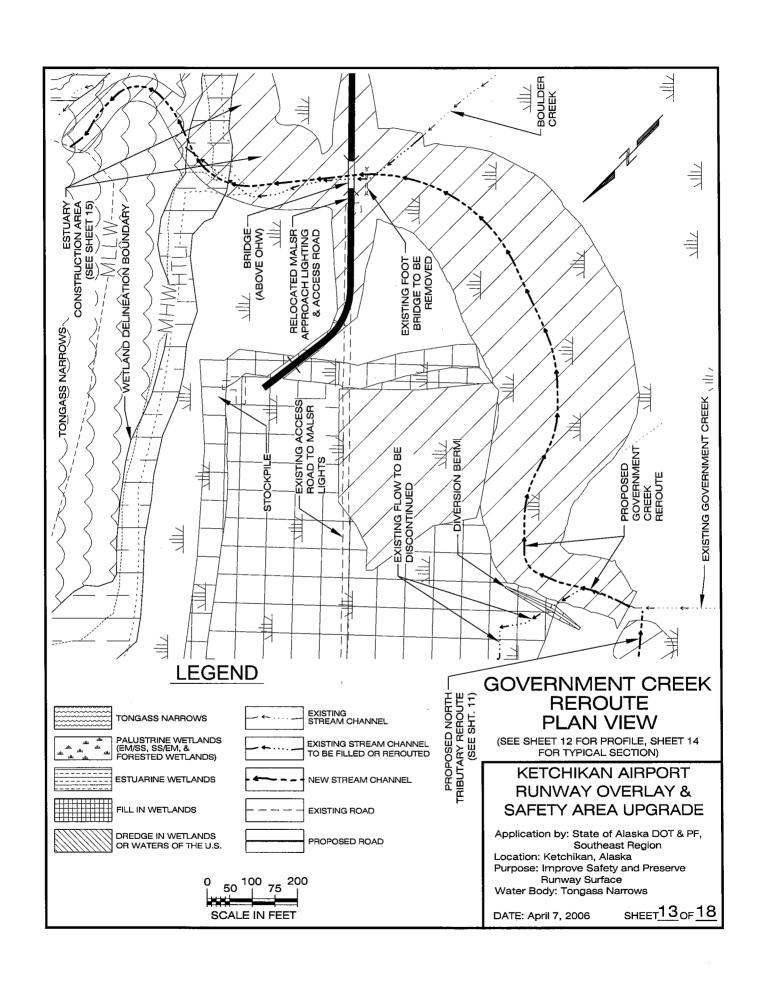


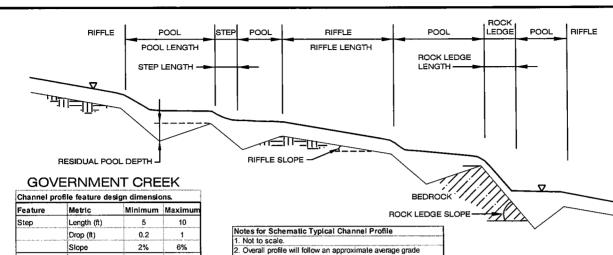












20 70 Length (ft) Drop (ft) 0.5 1.0

Slope 2% 4% Pool Length (ft) 25 65 0.1 0.3 Drop (ft) 0.20% 0.5% 3.5 Residual depth 2.0 Length (ft) 20 30 1.5 2.5 Drop (ft) Slope 6.0% 10.0% between 1.5% and 2.0% with localized rock ledges providing elevation adjustments up to 2.5 ft.

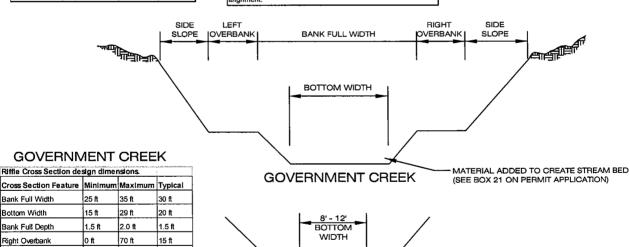
 The schematic shows the detailed elements that will be used to construct the channel profile. The order of elements will vary in the final design.

4. Riffles, ledges, and steps should always be located immediately upstream of a pool.

5. Specific dimensions of channel features should vary within

the limits specified in the design dimension table included with this schematic

6. Rock ledges must be located opportunistically where bedrock intersects with the proposed channel profile and



NORTH TRIBUTARY

Pool Cross Section des			
Cross Section Feature	Minimum	Maximum	Typical
Bank Full Width	30 ft	45 ft	35 ft
Bottom Width	20 ft	39 ft	29 ft
Bank Full Depth	2.5 ft	4 ft	3 ft
Right Overbank	O ft	90 ft	18 ft
Left Overbank	O ft	90 ft	18 ft

lo n

70 ft

15 ft

Bank Full Width

Bank Full Depth

Right Overbank

eft Overbank

Bottom Width

Rock Ledge Cross Section design dimensions.						
Cross Section Feature Minimum Maximum Typical						
Bank Full Width	25 ft	30 ft	25 ft			
Bottom Width	20 ft	25 ft	20 ft			
Bank Full Depth	1.0 ft	1.5 ft	1.0 ft			
Right Overbank	0 ft	15 ft	5 ft			
Left Overbank	O ft	15 ft	5 ft			

STREAM REPOUTE **PROFILE &** TYPICAL SECTION

NOT TO SCALE

KETCHIKAN AIRPORT **RUNWAY OVERLAY &** SAFETY AREA UPGRADE

MATERIAL ADDED TO CREATE STREAM BED (SEE BOX 21 ON PERMIT APPLICATION)

Application by: State of Alaska DOT & PF, Southeast Region

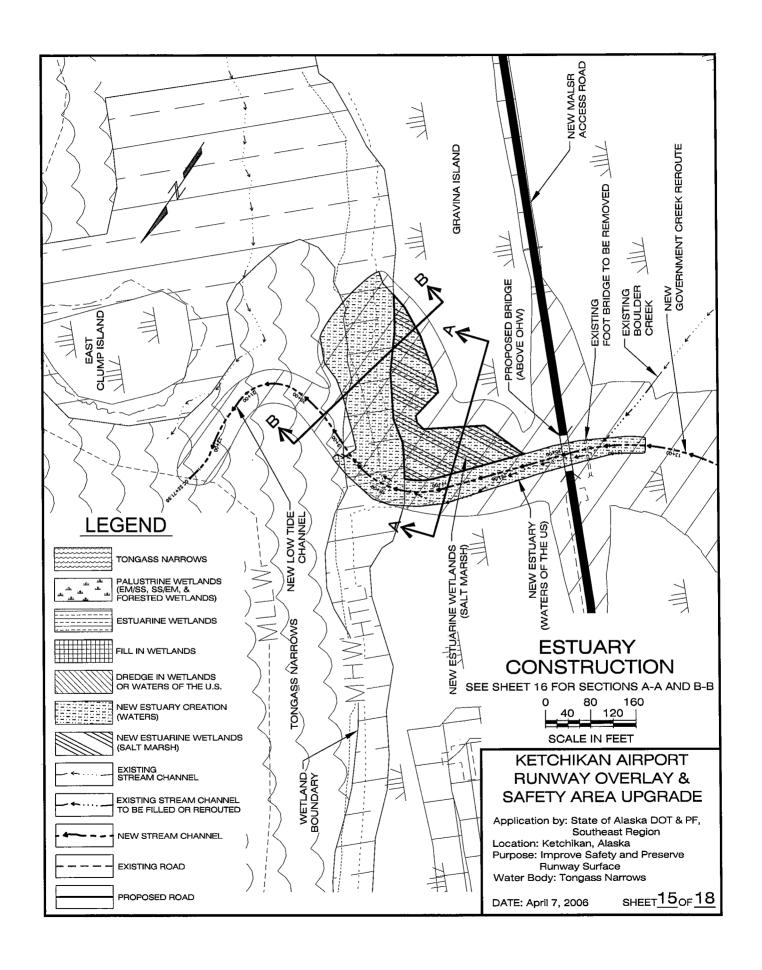
Location: Ketchikan, Alaska

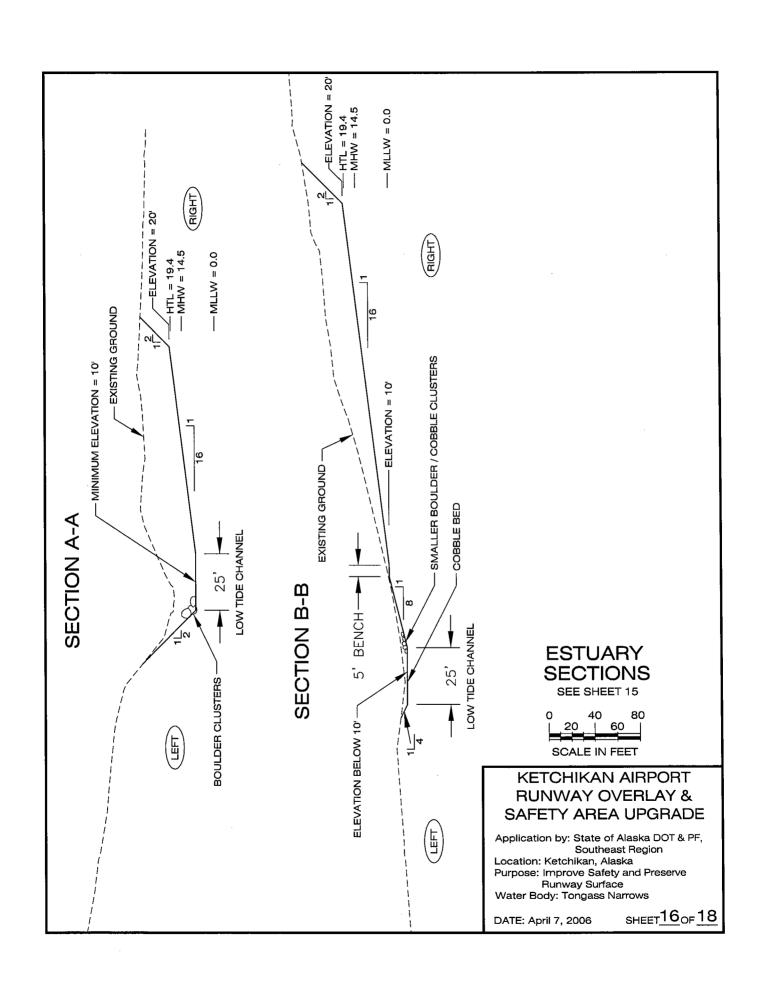
Purpose: Improve Safety and Preserve

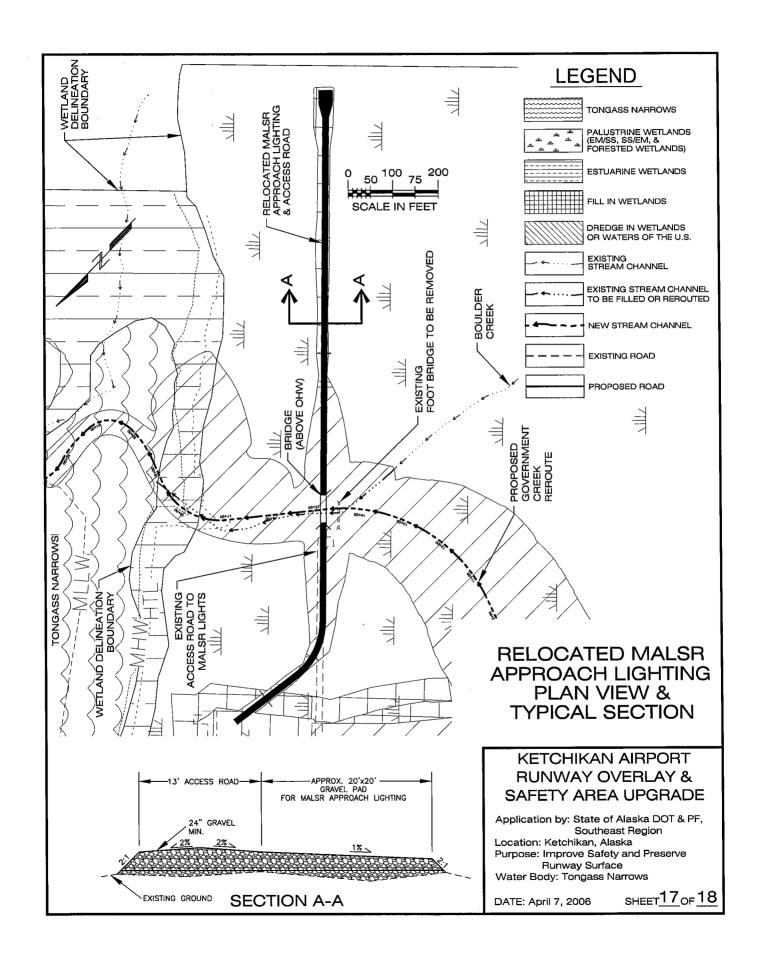
Runway Surface Water Body: Tongass Narrows

DATE: April 7, 2006

SHEET 14_{OF} 18







SUMMARY OF PERMANENT WETLAND IMPACTS						
	WETLAND TYPE	DREDGE AREA OF WETLANDS IMPACT (ACRES)	FILL AREA OF WETLANDS IMPACT (ACRES)	TOTAL WETLAND IMPACT AREA (ACRES)	DREDGE QUANTITY (CUBIC YARDS)	FILL QUANTITY (CUBIC YARDS)
RSA EXPANSION INCLUDES: RSA GLIDESLOPE CRITICAL AREA DRAINAGE SWALE OVERSIZED ACCESS ROAD	E F EM/SS SS/EM	0 0 3.9 1.0	0.3 5.2 19.0 2.0	31.4	24,500	895,500
MALSR	F EM/SS	0.1 0.6	0.8 0.1	1.6	9,500	3,000
GOVERNMENT CREEK REROUTE AND ESTUARY CONSTRUCTION	E F EM/SS	0.7 1.3 8.0	0	10.0	330,500	0
NORTH TRIBUTARY REPOUTE	EM/SS	1.7	0	1.7	24,500	0
MATERIAL SITE	SS/EM	15.1	0	15.1	494,500	0
PERIMEMETER SERVICE ROAD	SS/EM	0	1.6	1.6	0	5,000
TOTAL	-	32.4	29.0	61.4	883,500	903,500

SUMMARY OF TEMPORARY WETLAND IMPACTS						
	WETLAND TYPE	TOTAL WETLAND IMPACT AREA (ACRES)	DREDGE QUANTITY (CUBIC YARDS)	FILL QUANTITY (CUBIC YARDS)		
MATERIAL SITE TEMPORARY OVERBURDEN STOCKPILE	EM/SS	7.3	0	42,000		

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SUMMARY OF HABITAT CREATED					
	AREA CREATED (ACRES)				
GOVERNMENT CREEK REROUTE (WATERS)	2.2				
NORTH TRIBUTARY REROUTE (WATERS)	0.2				
ESTUARINE WETLANDS (SALT MARSH)	0.5				

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE U.S.						
TONGASS NARROWS FILL AREA	AREA OF FILL (ACRES)	FILL QUANTITY (CUBIC YARDS)	AREA OF CUT (ACRES)	CUT QUANTITY (CUBIC YARDS)		
RSA ESPANSION - NORTHWEST OF TAXIWAY B	2.4	106,000				
RSA EXPANSION - GOVERNMENT CREEK ESTUARY	0.2	15,000				
ESTUARY CONSTRUCTION			0.5	10,000		
TOTAL	2.6	121,000	0.5	10,000		

SUMMARY OF WETLAND IMPACTS

E = ESTUARINE WETLAND F = FORESTED WETLAND SS/EM = SHRUB-SCRUB/EMERGENT WETLAND EM/SS = EMERGENT/SHRUB-SCRUB WETLAND

KETCHIKAN AIRPORT **RUNWAY OVERLAY &** SAFETY AREA UPGRADE

Application by: State of Alaska DOT & PF, Southeast Region

Location: Ketchikan, Alaska

Purpose: Improve Safety and Preserve

Runway Surface Water Body: Tongass Narrows

DATE: April 7, 2006

SHEET 18 OF 18

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING 302 GOLD STREET, SUITE 202 JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1127 PHONE: (907) 465-3562/FAX: (907) 465-3075

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Office of Project Management and Permitting for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. **POA-2000-307-P, Tongass Narrows**, will comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

This project is being reviewed for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Written comments about the consistency of the project with the applicable ACMP statewide standards and district policies must be submitted to the Office of Project Management and Permitting. For information about this consistency review, contact OPMP at (907) 269-7470 or (907) 465-3562, or visit the ACMP web site at http://www.gov.state.ak.us/gdc/Projects/projects.html.

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER

401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No, <u>POA-2000-307-P</u>, <u>Tongass Narrows</u>, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify that there is reasonable assurance that the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation WQM/401 Certification 410 Willoughby Avenue Juneau, Alaska 99801-1795 Telephone: (907) 465-5321

FAX: (907) 465-5274